

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND: Improvement in Supplies

Consumers can expect more food for the rest of the year. The Ministry of Internal Trade has announced there will be enough meat, sugar, butter, oil, and flour products for rationing over the next three months, but supplies of eggs and cheese will decline. Coal stocks have increased in recent months.

Comment: The government should be able to fulfill meat ration requirements through December because of the recent increase in the slaughter of livestock, including distress slaughter of breeding stock, and the import of some meat from China. Meat and grain products may be more scarce in early 1983. Despite the good harvest this year, private farmers are unlikely to sell enough grain to the state to meet consumer demand for flour and other products in early 1983. Increased coal supplies, however, should keep power outages and heating problems to a minimum this winter.

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